



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : LIN et al. Confirmation No: 2668
Appl. No. : 10/045,004
Filed : January 15, 2002
Title : LEAD-FREE SOLDER

TC/A.U. : 1742
Examiner : S. Ip

Docket No.: : LINK3019/REF
Customer No: : 23364

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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Official Action of September 30, 2003, in connection with the above-identified application. Each of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been considered in detail and is respectfully traversed.

More particularly, there are four obviousness rejections over four separate and distinct references. There is no combination of references relied upon in any of the rejections. The rejection of claims 7-9 is in the alternative over two separate references. Applicants most respectfully submit that the references do not render obvious the presently claimed invention as the necessary motivation to modify the teachings of the reference with the expectation of success to arrive at the claimed invention is not found in the prior art but only in Applicants' specification which may not be used as a teaching reference. Moreover, obvious to try is not the standard of obviousness of the presently claimed invention under 35 USC 103.

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over JP 2000015478, hereinafter the '478 patent has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present invention relates to a lead-free solder consisting essentially of 7.0-10.0 wt% of zinc, 0.1- 4 wt% of silver, 0.01-0.5 wt% of aluminum and the remainder tin. As correctly noted by the Examiner, the inclusion of the transition